

SPORTS



The powerful engines roared up, raising clouds of snow, and a group of cross-country motorcyclists surged on to the course. Such was the start of an annual event sponsored by the "Vechornaya Moskva" newspaper. It was started 12 years ago. The current tournament is devoted to the 40th anniversary of Victory. The first event was competition in the 125 cc junior class, followed by adults in the 350 cc class, and winding up the tournament were competitions in motorcycles with side-cars.

Photo by Sergei Pronov

AFTER HEAVY TRIALS

Having overcome 13 thousand kilometers, the participants in the Seventh rally, Paris-Alger-Dakar have arrived to the Senegalese capital. Only a small number of the lovers of "adventures" have arrived to the finish. Out of 350 cars, 150 motorcycles, and fifty lorries which started on January 1 in Paris, slightly over 130 arrived to Dakar.

Like all the previous ones, this rally was admitted by many to bear, to a large extent, the imprint of "narrow-minded attitude", "adventurism" and "pure business". But one should give due to the courage and will power of the athletic racers.

The first place was taken by the Frenchman, Patrick Zanardi, who drove an all-wheel-drive car Mitsubishi. The second place in the auto category belongs to Andrew Cowan of Britain, also driving a Mitsubishi.

The winner among the motorcyclists, the Belgian Gaetan Rafter described the rally in the following words: "The rally was very difficult. Never before have I had to overcome so many sufferings. I am happy that all this is behind and this day is undoubtedly the best in my life."

Several tens of the participants have found themselves in hospital. Literally on the last day of the race, two French racers were at last found after they had disappeared in the desert. Finally, after three days of searches with a helicopter, little fleeces of flame were spotted on the horizon. In despair, the Frenchmen, whose motor had broken down, had set their hearts on fire. This is what saved them as they had only a small

canister of water left. Unfortunately, like all the previous rallies, this one has taken its toll of children's lives among the on-lookers. Masaru Kuroki driving a Toyota Corolla, at one of the stretches in Nigeria tried to dodge boys who stood by the road, and knocked one child.

Boris MIKHAILOV

New world achievement

Mary Decker of the USA ran 2,000 m in 5.34.52 in Los Angeles, a new world record.



An international ice skating competition, "The Moscow Seba", has ended in Moscow. Competing for the first place in the individual event were Soviet lancers Georgi Pogorov and Gyorgy Nabal of Hungary. Georgi Pogorov emerged the victor.

Who goes to Goteborg?

The USSR Figure Skating Federation has announced the Soviet team for the European championship to be held in the Swedish city of Goteborg, on February 4-10, on the basis of their performance at the international "Moscow News" competitions and the USSR championships.

In the pairs, the team, led by winners of the two contests of the new season — 1984 Olympic bronze medalists Larisa Seleznyova and Oleg Makarov of Leningrad, will include silver medalists of the USSR championship, Olympic champions Yelena Valova and Oleg Vasiliev, also of Leningrad, and the prize winners of several major competitions Muscovites Varonika Penkina and Maral Akbatov.

In ice dancing lovers of figure skating are anticipating with interest a continuation of the duel between the 1984 Olympic silver and bronze medalists, Natalya Bestemeyeva and Andrei Bukin, and Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko. The latter pair have become a sort of sensation by outdancing Bestemeyeva and Bukin at two representative tournaments in a row.

Women's singles will be represented by 1984 Olympic bronze winner Kira Ivanova of Moscow Region and the silver medalist of the world championship Anna Kondrasheva of Moscow. Anna won the national championship, but was only third at the "Moscow News" competition. Also included to the team is the promising skater Natalya Lebedeva of Sverdlovsk.

Among the men hopes are pinned first and foremost on European champion Alexander Fadeyev and the country's new champion Vladimir Kotin. Both are Muscovites.



The Soviet women's quartet of Tamara Tikhonova, Raisa Smolina, Lilya Vasilchenko and Anissa Romanova won the 4x5 km relay, the world skiing championships.

● Lilya Vasilchenko (right) passing relay to Anissa Romanova who wound up the race.

FINISH OF SKIING CHAMPIONSHIP

Swede Gunde Svan won the last gold medal of the world skiing championship at Seefeld, Austria. He triumphed in the men's 50 km race, clocking 2 hr 10 min 49.9 sec, one of the best times ever in the sport's history. Italian Maurizio De Zolt was second in 2:11:52.6, and Norwegian Ove Aunli third in 2:12:37.7.

Svan won his second gold at the championship, like Norwegian Anette Bøe and Nordic combined event participant Hermann Weinbuch of West Germany.

Norway won the most, 15 medals — five golds, five silvers and five bronzes. It produced seven winners in 11 of 13 events. Altogether eight nations

won the medals — aside from Norway, Finland (2-1-1), West Germany (2-0-0), the USSR (1-0-2), Italy (0-2-1), and Austria (0-2-0).

Never before has the world done so badly, winning far gold in the women's 5 km relay.

Win for West Germany

Seefeld, West Germany: the team combined Nordic at the world championships here. Norway came second, Finland third.

It's Pleshkova again

Having won a Gold Medal in calm weather racing a three-kilometer track on Saturday, Olga Pleshkova of Moscow won on the following day, with its first and blizzard, another three impressive awards of the USSR Championship in the speed skating event which has ended in Moscow.

She had no equals on the artificial skating rink. Easily and in an excellent style she won the combined 500 and 1,000 meters, clocking 84.530 points. She set the distance of 1,000 meters in 2 min 13.64 sec, and the 500 meters event in 44 min 8.8 sec. She is now an absolute champion of the country.

Win for Moscow players

An international chess tournament marking the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the Polish capital, ended in Warsaw in favour of Moscow chess

team. It polled 8.5 points. Warsaw's second team came with 5.5 points, while the first team totalled three.



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KONSTANTIN CHERNENKO: Formidable danger must not be allowed to come from outer space

Today it is impossible to limit, let alone reduce nuclear arms without taking effective measures to prevent the militarization of outer space, said Konstantin Chernenko, replying to questions from Stuart H. Loory, correspondent of the American Cable News Network. This organic interconnection is clearly stated in the agreement reached between the USSR and the USA in Geneva.

This document clearly stipulates that the complete elimination of nuclear weapons must be the end result of the efforts of the sides in the field of arms limitation and reduction, said Kon-

stantin Chernenko, stressing that the Soviet Union has consistently advocated this solution since the advent of nuclear weapons and that until now the USA did not even want to discuss this issue.

There is a foundation for conducting the talks seriously and purposefully, said the Soviet leader. The point now is to honestly follow the agreement reached in Geneva and strictly observe all its parts in practice. We have given the clear instruction in our delegation to act in this way. We expect the same from the American side.

USSR, CZECHOSLOVAKIA REITERATE RESOLVE

At a recent meeting in the Kremlin, First Vice-Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Andrei Gromyko, and Czechoslovak Foreign Minister, Bohuslav Chaboupek, reiterated their resolve to work tirelessly to achieve progress at the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. This effort will be promoted by the document, "Basic provisions of the treaty on mutual non-use of military force

and maintenance of relations of peace" proposed by the Soviet Union on January 29, 1985, and which reflects the common stand of the Warsaw Treaty member-countries.

Both sides stressed the great importance and positive nature of the Declaration by the heads of state and government of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Tanzania and Sweden in strengthening world-wide opposition to the nuclear war threat and in halting the race in outer space and nuclear arms.

Thirty years of Soviet-Indian cooperation

The successful development of economic, scientific and technological cooperation between the USSR and India is a major factor strengthening friendship and mutual understanding between the peoples of our two countries. It is also of great international significance.

This is contained in a telegram sent by the President of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the USSR Council of Ministers to

Indian leaders on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Soviet-Indian economic, scientific and technological cooperation. This cooperation began in 1955, when the first intergovernmental agreement was signed by the two countries on the construction of a steel mill in Bhilai with technical and economic assistance from the Soviet Union.

The dynamically developing Soviet-Indian scientific and technological cooperation, the telegram states, is comprehensive and multifaceted. It is consistently enriched by new forms and contents and embraces practically all the major spheres of activity engaged in by the peoples of our countries—from the bowels of the earth to outer space exploration. In addition, operating in India are tens of major industries and other projects built through joint efforts of our two countries.

The telegram expresses confidence that further advancement of the all-round cooperation between the USSR and India will continue to reliably serve the interests of both countries, as well as the cause of peace in Asia and throughout the world.

Week of Friendship ends

A Week of Soviet-Indian Friendship, marking India's national holiday, Republic Day — has ended in the USSR.

Friendship meetings and rallies were held in Moscow, Leningrad, Tashkent, Osh, Ljubeck and other Soviet cities. Speakers at the meetings underlined the fact that the Soviet Union and India are bound by close ties of friendship and mutual cooperation, which grow from year to year. They are becoming an increasingly weighty factor of peace and stability in Asia and the world as a whole. Soviet peoples expressed the confidence that the time-tested bilateral relations resting on solid foundations of the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation, will further strengthen in the interests of both countries.

The Week's vast programme included numerous art and photographic exhibitions familiarizing Soviet people with India's history, culture and life today, as well as activities of public organizations in both countries. Days of Indian films showing, among other things, 100 Soviet-Indian productions, were a great success.

Taking part in the celebrations of the Week were delegations of the Indian society of Friends of the Soviet Union, and the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society.

WHAT U.S. SENATOR THINKS

Washington. Well-known US political figure Allen Cranston (Democrat, California) came out against the plans of the US administration to develop anti-missile defence system with space-based components. He said in his statement that the tests and deployment of such a system would deal a lethal blow at the prospects of limitation and reduction of strategic nuclear weapons.

If such a system is deployed,

reads the statement, the Soviet Union will be compelled to take counter-measures to ensure its security. As a result, the arms race will be transferred to outer space.

The Senator also spoke for the establishment of a moratorium by the US on anti-satellite weapons tests.

Nukes to return to sender

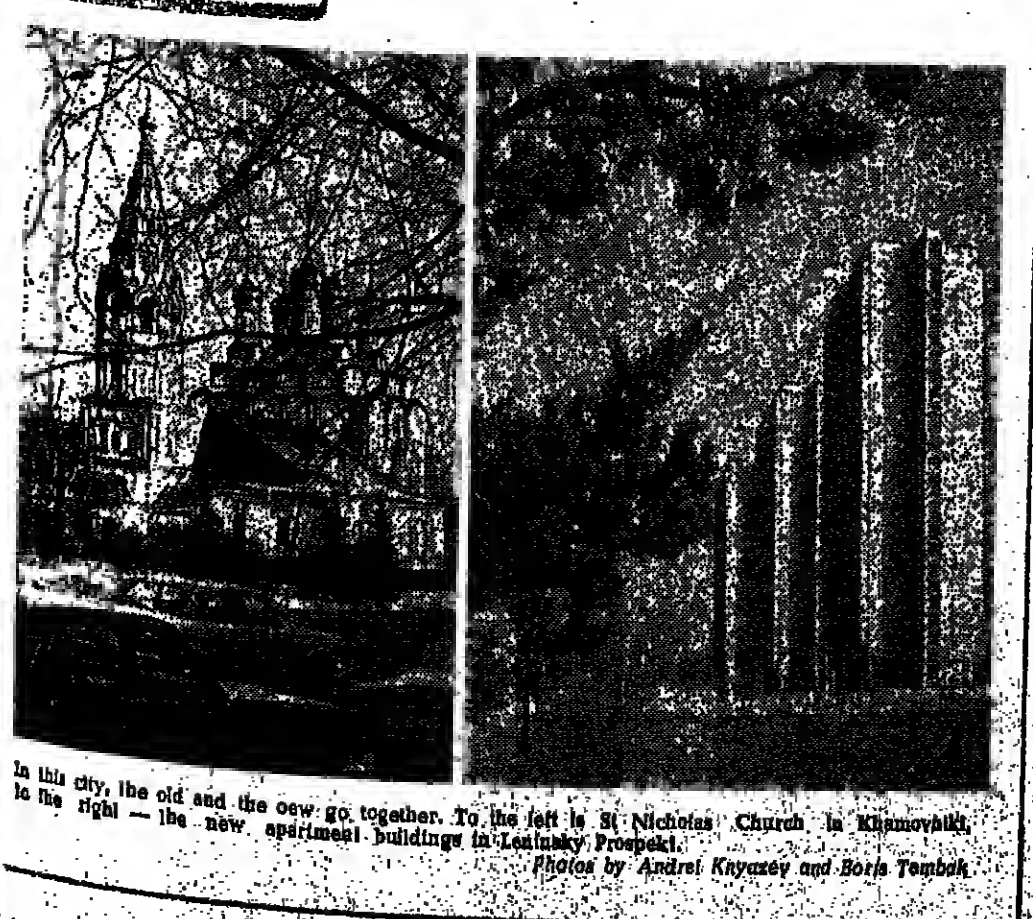
Athens. The Greek Government will turn down any American request to deploy new nuclear warheads in the country, the Greek Prime Minister, Andreas Papandreu has stated.

He also said that Greece had already rejected an American proposal aimed at tying the country to the American nuclear charter. As the Prime Minister put it, the USA had asked Greece about the possibility of modernizing nuclear deposits there but Greece had said "No".

DESCENT MODULE PRESENTED TO INDIA

A ceremony was recently held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Museum in New Delhi at which the descent module of the Soyuz T-10 spacecraft was handed over to India. The crew members of the module, the Indian cosmonaut Rakesh Sharma and his Soviet colleagues, Yuri Malyshev and Gennady Strekalov returned to Earth on April 11, last year, after their joint space flight. The space module, presented by the USSR to the Indian Government, is now installed in the Delhi Planetarium near the Jawaharlal Nehru Museum. The ceremony was attended by Indian dignitaries, including

Sharma and R. Malhotra. The gathering was addressed by the Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi who said that many years of fruitful Soviet-Indian space cooperation have already brought about impressive results and that prospects for advancing this cooperation are extensive and good. He also noted that today, nearly 50 years after the first space flight, the possibility of "war" in space is opposed by scientists. Weapons in outer space make its peaceful use possible, he said.



In this city, the old and the new go together. To the left is St. Nicholas Church in Khamovniki. To the right — the new apartment buildings in Leninsky Prospekt. Photos by Andrei Knyazev and Boris Tombok.

ATTENTION, SUBSCRIBERS ABROAD

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THE WORLD

Preventing another war

Athens. The Athens Meeting for Peace and Disarmament sponsored by the Greek Government drew noted public, state and political figures from 28 nations of the five continents. At a press conference after the meeting, the participating heads of state and government, as well as other delegates stressed that despite differences in views and approaches to the solution of international problems, they unanimously favoured common and determined efforts to prevent an outbreak of a new world war. The primary condition for realizing this goal is to place a moratorium on the testing of nuclear weapons, prevent militarization of outer space and to achieve positive results at the forthcoming Soviet-American talks, due next March.

It was noted in a communiqué that representatives of public and political circles in both East and West support the goals and suggestions of the Athens Declaration and are resolved to work tirelessly towards advancing the cause of peace and nuclear disarmament.

Nuclear conflict will spare none

New Delhi. The Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has expressed hope that the appeal for peace and cessation of the arms race made by the Delhi summit of the five continents, headed by the Prime Minister of the Soviet Union, will lead to a nuclear weapons ban and thus promote the search for real avenues to nuclear disarmament and removal of the threat of nuclear war.

In this connection, the head of the Indian Government commented the reaction of the Soviet Union to the previous joint declaration of the five continents made on May 22, 1984. He said the USSR was the only one among the states with nuclear weapons which gave a positive response to this appeal.



Pentagon's Maharajah. Drawing by L. Chepurov

Report by International Commission of Jurists

Geneva. Fresh evidence of atrocities by Israeli settlers is contained in a report by the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ). Witness accounts gathered by a Commission delegation on the West Bank of the Jordan testify to the monstrous crimes committed by the occupiers in the Farra concentration camp near the town of Nablus.

To extricate confessions, they were told by local inmates, the Israelis subjected them to monstrous torture and abuse, beating them with electric wire, burning them with cigarettes, showering icy water on them and kicking them with hobnail boots. Inmates are denied elemental medical help.

FRIENDSHIP BASED ON ADHERENCE TO PEACE

New Delhi. The Soviet proposals aimed at preventing the arms race from spreading into outer space and radically reducing nuclear weapons sight down to their complete elimination was put forward to the true road to the relaxation of tensions in the world. This was noted by delegates who attended an Indian public meeting held here as part of the Indo-Soviet Friendship Month.

This Indo-Soviet Friendship Month convincingly demonstrates the sincere, friendly feelings towards the Soviet Union rooted in the hearts and minds of the Indian people, said Krishna Kumar, Chairman of the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society, former member of the Indian Supreme Court. Our friendship is based on common adherence to peace, disarmament and the fight against the threat of war. It has successfully understood the test of time, and the development of fruitful economic cooperation between India and the Soviet Union — and this is a considerable contribution to the consolidation of India's economic independence. We are proud of our friendship with the Soviet Union, the bastion of peace and progress on earth, concluded Krishna Kumar.

Threat to peace on the Korean Peninsula

Pyeongyang. The Committee for peaceful reunification of the peninsula has sharply condemned the US-South Korean war games, Team Spirit-85. A statement by the committee spokesman stresses that the war games are a provocation against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, they threaten peace on the Korean Peninsula and intensify tensions in the region.

Participation in them by over 200,000 US and South Korean servicemen, B-52 strategic bombers and naval ships with nuclear weapons aboard, the "green berets" units with the vermin nuclear charges make them unprecedented in size and testifies to their aggressive nature.

At present the south of the Korean Peninsula is but a clear arena of the American armed forces, the statement emphasizes. It has over 1,000 warplanes, a large number of nuclear weapons, a personnel which aggravates the situation in Asia and worldwide.

OPEC restructuring prices

Geneva. Delegates attending the 73rd conference of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) have decided to restructure the oil prices system adopted by the OPEC countries.

Following a debate over the issue it was decided, with the abstentions, to narrow the price differential between different grades of oil, reducing the price of a barrel by 50 cents and a half. This decision reflects the complex situation which exists both inside OPEC and around it, as Western countries are pursuing a policy of sabotage against the OPEC position, thus undermining the main source of foreign currency earnings of many countries.

THE WORLD

FACTS and EVENTS

French defence minister, Charles Hernu, has said that in the near future the country's Navy will have a nuclear-powered submarine with improved multiple M-4 missiles.

The first bulletin of the Latin American special news agency has come out in the Mexican capital. This regional news agency was founded by Bolivia, Venezuela, Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Ecuador and some other nations within the Latin American economic system, striving for a new world information order in the face of the expansion of Western news corporations.

Only ten per cent of the Japanese are satisfied with the present government's domestic and foreign policies. Nearly eighty per cent of the people say they do not favour the government, according to the results of an opinion poll conducted by the newspaper "Asahi" among three thousand Japanese voters.



As part of the preparation for the 12th World Festival of Youth and Students to be held this year in Moscow, the Soviet ship "Latvia" is making a cruise around West Africa. On board are 350 young people from all corners of the USSR.

M/S "Latvia" passengers being welcomed at the Chanele port of Tams.

Thatcher denied honorary degree

London. At their meeting, professors and leading teachers at Oxford University passed a verdict which the British press describes as a denunciation of the Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

With an overwhelming majority of votes they opposed the awarding to her of an honorary degree in law. This decision is unprecedented, as previously, all the British Prime Ministers who graduated from Oxford had honorary degrees conferred on them.

What is the reason for this

stand taken by the dons? The answer lies in statistics which show that the Tories' social policy is damaging to the interests of higher education.

Last year the state sharply cut down allocations on the needs of colleges and universities. Whereas the oldest universities, Cambridge and Oxford had their spending cut by thirteen per cent, less famous universities found their budgets reduced by 35-44 per cent. As a result, they have had to close entire departments and dismiss their staff members.

Terrorists arrested

New Delhi. The Indian police has arrested five terrorists in Ludhiana, Punjab state. They were involved in a recent attempt on the life of Kirpal Singh, a well-known Sikh priest. As a result of armed assault Kirpal Singh and another two people were wounded. The organizers of this crime belonged

to the clandestine separatist groups closely linked with American and Pakistani secret services. As the police spokesman told the newsmen, during the investigation it was found out that the conspirators planned to kill five chief clergymen in Amritsar — the centre of Sikh religion.

NAMIBIA—ALL TYPES OF EXPLOITATION

Leanda. A sharp rise in unemployment among the Black population was marked last year in Namibia illegally occupied by the racist Republic of South Africa. According to understated official data, quoted by a spokesman from the colonial administration in Windhoek, 20.8 per cent of the Namibians were out of work. Over the past decade, this figure has doubled, he admitted.

The African newspapers note that thousands of Namibians are denied any means of subsistence. Those who are lucky to have a job are compelled to be content with meagre pittance of a pay for arduous work in the mines of transnational corporations which derive fabulous profits.

According to a Mozambican newspaper "Domingo", the profit rate gained by the NNC operating in Namibia exceeds 20 per cent. The Western powers extract from this territory valuable raw materials, including tungsten and nickel, diamonds and platinum.

Africans employed on White-owned farms are in a situation of slaves. Working for twelve hours a day they are given very poor food rations in exchange. The White farmers cruelly beat up the agricultural workers and subject them to jeering and mockery. According to UNICAF, even children are cruelly exploited on Namibian farms.

PEOPLE

US ambassador of the UN Jesse Kirkpatrick has announced her resignation after a White House meeting with President Reagan.

Kirkpatrick, a representative of the most conservative US circles reflecting the position of the White House on key international problems, repeatedly opposed measures directed at the UN to promote peace and security in various parts of the world, showing a clear inclination to support the policies of the US administration, which is engaged in a series of invasions against states, openly threatening them with "tough measures".

Bridge across Gibraltar?

Madrid. Spanish press reports have mentioned for the first time a project which Spain, France, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt have been considering for the past six years. This is a technically bold but quite practicable plan to link Europe with Africa in the narrowest place separating them — the Strait of Gibraltar. Of the many original variants of the project three were selected after thorough

Science and technology

BRAZILSAT SOON TO LIFT OFF

According to the Brazilian press, the first communication satellite of this largest Latin American country will be launched on February 8, 1985. It is meant to facilitate the relay of TV programmes over 24 channels, and to link together 12 thousand subscribers simultaneously. The Brazilsat will be put in orbit at an altitude of 35 thousand kilometres above Earth. Brazilian scientists believe it will last for eight years.

ELECTRICALLY DRIVEN BANTAM CAR

The Peugeot company has developed an electrically-driven car on the basis of the popular Peugeot-205. It can develop a speed of 100 km/h and run 200 km at a speed of 40 km/h. This car needs only 11.8 seconds after it starts to develop a speed of 50 km/h.

ON PREVENTING SOME EFFECTS OF WEIGHTLESSNESS

As NASA researchers report, physical exercises combined with low-calorie diet can counteract the development of some effects of weightlessness in the blood of cosmonauts.

The high level of sugar in the blood may cause a higher content of triglycerides which entails the danger of the obstruction of blood vessels and the development of atherosclerosis. But this danger can be prevented by means of physical exercises and the low-calorie diet, since the exercises decrease sugar content as a result of increasing energy consumption and slow down the production of insulin by pancreas.

Bridge across Gibraltar?

consideration—a bridge on steel pylons going 250 metres underwater, an underwater tunnel and a floating bridge on powerful pontoons. Spanish transport and communications minister, Enrique Barro, said the study of the most acceptable variant would require at least ten years while construction itself would in any event last no less than 30 years. The project is roughly estimated at 5,000 million dollars.

FROM the SOVIET PRESS

NATO SPELLS DANGER...

Commenting on the refusal of the Greek Government to take part in the meetings in Rome of the NATO Defense College which "added" the military coup in Greece in 1967, TASS observer, O. Shirokov writes:

The independent policy of this sovereign state causes irritation in Washington, and it is not the first time that the bases of the North Atlantic Alliance, particularly the United States, are interfering in Greece's domestic affairs. Greece is not the only victim. It would not be out of the way to recall that NATO has repeatedly tampered with internal matters of France, Italy and other NATO member-countries. However, the case we have in mind is perhaps the most cynical and crude. Not only was political pressure relied upon, but also NATO's armed forces were used. This highly indicative episode in the history of this military bloc has shown yet again that NATO, in the hands of Washington politicians, is a very dangerous instrument. It presents a threat not only to world peace, but to the members of this military alliance as well.

EYEWITNESS STATEMENT

Many books trying to justify the crimes of the US military clique have appeared in the USA during the years that have passed since the tragic events in South Vietnam and, especially, over the past few years. Academician A. Pokin writes in KHASNAYA ZVEZDA, commenting further as follows:

I had the occasion to be in Vietnam, when the last out of millions of tonnes of air bombs, shells and mines, used, there by the US Army, were still burning and on the soil, where the villages and forests of Vietnam were still burning from napalm made in USA, when the cloud formed by thousands of tonnes of Orange Agent and other chemicals sprinkled there, was still hanging over a vast territory of that country—from the 17th parallel to the Gulf of Siam. All what I saw during these trips, acquaintance with the results of investigations conducted by Vietnamese and other scientists in subsequent years provided me with an opportunity to get a rather full idea about the barbarous methods used by the US imperialists in the war against the Vietnamese people.

WHAT ARE ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGNERS UP TO?

According to the opinion polls in Japan, more than three-fourths of those questioned do not experience "any warm feelings" towards the Soviet Union, writes Yuri Tuvrovsky in LITERATURNAYA GAZETA. This is the result of an on-going anti-Soviet campaign in Japan.

What are the aims of the inspirers and engineers of the intensive anti-Soviet campaign? First and foremost, they want to implant in the national conscience the stereotype of "threat hanging over Japan", and to convince doubters that it is impossible to maintain stable, mutually beneficial peaceful relations with the Soviet Union and to make change their minds those who are opposed to the accelerated build-ups of armed forces, unquestioned involvement of the country in the American nuclear strategy. With its anti-Sovietism, Tokyo hopes of less: partially is set off the constantly growing positive balance in its trade with the United States. It was noted a long time ago that the anti-Soviet campaigns reach their peak at times of aggravation in the Japanese-American differences in trade or else coincide with the arrival in Tokyo of the engaged emissaries from the White House.

UNDER THE COVER OF PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

A new radio station—the branch of the Voice of America began broadcasts in Santo-de-San-Carlos locality in the North of Costa Rica, bordering on Nicaragua. The task of its first relay station in Central America is "to propagate Western values". In special (1) information programmes directed against Nicaragua. How it came, the daily newspaper PRAVDA asks, that in violation of the Costa Rican laws banning the activity of foreign radio stations, Washington is now using its territory to toughen the psychological war against Nicaragua? The reply lies in the methods applied by Washington in its undeclared war against the Socialist Nicaragua: from "arms twisting" to an alliance with the most seditious reactionaries, even if these are "private people". The relay station of the VOA is undoubtedly built on the basis of an agreement between the US administration and... a private Costa Rican "association of information and culture". The White House granted financial and technical means for the functioning of the Voice of Costa Rica, and the association—o cover, under which the Costa Rican territory will be used for whipping up tension round Nicaragua.

OF INTEREST

A fake snake

For nearly two years, visitors to the Zoo in the American city of Houston, Texas, had been crowding outside a cage with a coral snake. Not only is it the most beautiful snake in the world but it is also one of the most beautiful. Both children and parents used to stand glued to the ground, by widely publicized hypnotic gaze. Every thing went on well until someone discovered that the snake was made of rubber. The curator had to apologize to the public who threatened to sue the Zoo for deception.

Living 'bomb'

A telephone call of the Stockholm police department sent a special team to the local yacht club, where a bomb was claimed to have been found between the pier. The team had of their disposal a remotely controlled robot which was to defuse the bomb. However, the robot was of no use. As soon as it gripped the bomb with its arms, the latter started exploding. It happened to be a Greek yacht which had, strangely enough, managed to reach Stockholm. It has been sent to local dock.

VIEWPOINT

Yuri KURITSYN

Security of non-nuclear-weapon states: guarantees needed

A recent New York meeting of the Association for the United Nations in the USSR and its counterpart in the USA adopted a joint declaration expressing the side's unanimous opinion that the cardinal foreign policy goal of both countries should be safeguarding the regime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Numerous UN decisions also urge nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon states to do just that. The latest, 39th session of the General Assembly alone adopted 27 resolutions aimed at placing barriers—in the way of nuclear weapons with the idea of banning its modernization and tests, etc. Many of these resolutions are directly connected with the problem of strengthening the security of non-nuclear-weapon states. The session took specific decision on this issue as well as several resolutions on the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of the world and on qualitative and quantitative freezing of nuclear weapons.

An important role in the preparation and adoption of these documents was played by developing nations like India, Mexico, Algeria, Nigeria, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and many others. This is natural, for the idea is to achieve effective guarantees against nuclear threat for countries which, unlike some NATO states, have not invited it by acquiring nuclear weapons or associating themselves with plans for their development and use.

What is the state of these guarantees today? Do they ensure the necessary degree of security for non-nuclear nations or only create an illusion of it? The following text appropriately clarifies the matter. At last, December session of the General Assembly, which discussed the draft resolution on concluding an international convention on strengthening the security of non-nuclear-weapon states against the use of nuclear weapons, of the nuclear states only the USSR voted for it. The USA, Britain and France cast negative votes, while China abstained.

The fact may be decided, so to say, this way. On January 15, the Canadian newspapers "Globe and Mail" and "Citizen" reported that a secret memorandum had been signed by President Ronald Reagan sanctioning deployment of US nuclear arms in other countries, specifically Canada, Spain, Iceland, the Azores and the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Diego Garcia and the Indian Ocean. To be added to the list are the West European nations which have their own or American nuclear weapons on their territories, the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands off Argentine shores, where there are plans to set up a NATO nuclear base, as well as numerous US military bases in various parts of the World Ocean and the coast of all continents in the Eastern Hemisphere equipped to service submarines with cruise and other nuclear missiles and aircraft carriers with planes carrying nuclear weapons.

It lines could be drawn on a map from these points to various parts of the Soviet Union and other East-European states, we would realize that there is practically not a single state left in the world without overhead routes of missiles and nuclear bombers bound for the USSR and its socialist allies.

Thus the real situation concerning guarantees to non-nuclear-weapon states, coupled with the incontestable truth that nuclear war spells out death to the entire mankind, dictates a certain choice in the question of security against the nuclear threat—precisely, a complete and ultimate prohibition of nuclear weapons and total destruction of all their stocks.



Yuri Kuritsyn

So what security could there ever be if any such lethal carrier can well stray off course or fail to reach its target and "land" halfway! Just remember the many such accidents and others involving US nuclear arms during their tests and at deployment sites.

One of the more secure guarantees for non-nuclear-weapon states is respect for their non-nuclear-weapon status. But this is not always done.

At the 39th General Assembly session the USA, Britain and France voted against a nuclear test ban resolution; so such tests continue, including those on the French Mururoa Atoll in the Pacific, in defiance of protests by all the states in the region.

These same countries, as well as Israel, did not support a declaration on creating a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa. Meanwhile South Africa and Israel have used their relations to obtain technologies and materials needed for the production of nuclear weapons. This does not only undermine the continent's non-nuclear-weapon status but nullifies all the declared guarantees to African and Middle-Eastern states against the nuclear threat.

Thus the real situation concerning guarantees to non-nuclear-weapon states, coupled with the incontestable truth that nuclear war spells out death to the entire mankind, dictates a certain choice in the question of security against the nuclear threat—precisely, a complete and ultimate prohibition of nuclear weapons and total destruction of all their stocks.

Round the Soviet Union

● SMALL MOUNTAIN RIVERS IN THE CHON-KEM VALLEY HAVE BEEN DAMMED BY AMELIORATION WORKERS IN THE CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLIC OF KIRGHIZIA. The purpose is to create a network of dams for spring thaw waters in a large land-farming oasis. Ten million cubic metres of the water will be accumulated so that in spring it could be directed to thousands of hectares of land. Over the next few years, irrigation construction will be relied upon to increase land fertility in the area by another 75 thousand hectares.

● A WILDLIFE RESERVATION CALLED SHAHSENEH HAS BEEN SET UP IN THE NORTH OF THE TURKMENIAN REPUBLIC (CENTRAL ASIA). Its territory, measuring more than fifty thousand hectares, adjoins the Kaplanky Plateau. The authorities have taken under their protection two endangered species — Central Asian gazelle and saiga antelope, both of which are endangered in the Red Data Book of the USSR and the Turkmenian SSR. At the moment, the republic has seven wildlife reservations and thirteen preserves. The total area of wildlife reservations in the republic has reached two million hectares. Several preserves are to be set up in the Kuglinskiy Mountains located in the middle of Karakum Desert and in the Balkan mountain range lying in the west of the republic.

● A ZONAL METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATORY COMMISSIONED RECENTLY IN VOLYNIA (WESTERN UKRAINE) WILL CARRY OUT EFFECTIVE MONITORING OF THE ENVIRONMENT CONDITIONS OVER A VAST AREA IN THE UKRAINIAN POLYSE AREA. Specialists employed here will be able to receive information directly from weather satellites. Special attention is given to the study of ecological consequences of land improvement and its influence on the hydrological regime of rivers in this large area which incorporates several provinces in the Ukrainian Republic.

FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

SEA GUARDIANS

A hundred litres of fuel produce a square kilometre of film over sea surface, Oleg Khaitonov, head of the sea marine service against oil spills, writes in IZVESTIA. Annually, over six million tonnes of oil are dumped into the sea. Disasters with tankers, oil-shore rigs, oil pipelines cause an irreparable damage to animal and plant life in the sea. Scientists believe that pollution of the oceans affects the global climate.

To avoid such calamities, a special service has been set up in the USSR. In Kiopeda, Odessa, Batumi, Marmanak and some other port cities special oil slick fighting teams have of the latest technology at their disposal. This considerably reduces the level of pollution. Special rescue teams will render emergency assistance to any tanker in distress whatever its flag.

Oil slick fighting is an international duty, Oleg Khaitonov stresses. Therefore Soviet specialists in this field cooperate on the widest possible scale with their foreign counterparts.

TO HEAL AND TO BUILD UP HEALTH

Hyperbaric oxygenation, or exposure of a patient to higher pressure and higher oxygen content, will soon be used outside hospitals, MOSKOVSKY KOMSOMOLETS writes. Sergei Kiselev, who heads the department of hyperbaric oxygenation at the Moscow Regional Vyalitsky Research Institute, explains that originally this method was recommended only as a treatment for those with inadequate concentration of oxygen in tissues. Therein lies all the patients with cardiac and pulmonary deficiencies. It is also helpful in the cases of stomach or duodenal ulcers and the only cure



RIGA'S YOUNG SINGERS

Popular Latvian composer Raimonds Putis (the upper photo) is a frequent visitor to the secondary school in Riga which bears the name of Emilis Dzirins. The school is a special one: its pupils receive musical education. The composer visits the boys' choir — one of the most favourite singing collectives in the republic — for which he recently wrote a whole concert.

The singing section of the school admits seven-year-olds with musical talent. They learn to sing and study theory. At an older age they take up conducting. It goes without saying that the school provides general secondary education as well. The children feel like real artists. Many of the school's graduates who later studied at the Conservatoire have become professional singers and musicians.



The boys' choir in Riga is a traditional participant in song festivals which the republic holds regularly. The choir established 35 years ago gives concerts in Moscow, the Ukraine, Byelorussia and other republics and has also been abroad. Together with the ensembles

of the Latvian State Philharmonic Society they take part to Dmitry Kabalevsky's "Requiem", Arthur Honegger's "Jeanne d'Arc au bûcher", and Benjamin Britten's opera for children — "The Little Claymoss" — at the republic's Opera and Ballet Theatre.

New motor vehicles for the countryside

The main conveyor for assembling new powerful KAZ-4540 road trains for rural areas has started operating at the Kuzlisk Motor Works in Georgia (a Transcaucasian republic).

The designers have succeeded in developing an economical vehicle adapted, as far as possible, to rural conditions. It has many advantages compared with traditional trucks which are now used in the harvesting campaign and for carrying agricultural produce. Sharply increased road clearance, two driving axles and wide tyres give the new truck high cross-country abilities: even on rough roads the KAZ confidently carries 11 tonnes of freight.

A powerful and economical six-cylinder diesel engine was developed specially for the new truck. Every 100 km it consumes 30-40 per cent less fuel than a petrol-engined truck.

KAZ-4540 is supplied with an 8-speed gear-box which gives it wide-range speed changes and manoeuvrability. For example, on a field next to the combine, the new truck can move at a speed of 2 km/h and on highway — up to 60 km/h. It is also of great significance that KAZ is a prime mover, consisting of a road mover and a semitrailer.

The production of the new model reflects a major tendency in the Soviet automobile industry within the last few years — the production of a growing number of specialized vehicles, mainly for the rural areas.

Steam in a 'trap'

Specialists in the (vsovo) (Russian Federation) Research Institute of Cotton Industry have designed an original installation which harnesses heat from steam and air mixtures used in cloth drying as well as from other technological processes at the final stages in textile production.

The installation's designers make this previously waste heat warm up water which is then used for various industrial purposes.

against gas gangrene. Hyperbaric oxygenation proved to be very effective against the latter ailment.

Hyperbaric treatment requires a pressure chamber and therefore are among the most costly treatments. Despite this fact they are being developed in the USSR on a planned basis. Soviet industry offers a whole range of pressure chambers — from giant ones intended for surgical operations to tiny portable, in 10 to 20 years a pressure chamber will be seen. Kiselev believes, at factories and training centres for athletes because it helps recover from stressful situations and fatigue.

GLACIOLOGY PUT TO GOOD USE

There are 27 thousand glaciers in the Soviet Union with a total area of 100 approaching 85 thousand square kilometres, the islands in the Arctic Ocean included. Their behaviour presents a theoretical and practical interest as it helps more accurately predict the ice situation along the Northern Sea Route. These problems will form the subject of a special glaciological commission set up at the Moscow Branch of the USSR Geographical Society, MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA writes.

Mountain glaciers are the source of water for irrigation and power generation. Ice and snow are of special importance for future travellers, for making temporary winter roads, for snow anchorage and the forecasting of navigation periods along the rivers.

Glaciology has been quickly acquiring a practical dimension, especially efficient in contribution to expected to be in weather prediction.

LAND PROTECTED BY FOREST

There are nearly 250 million hectares of grazing grounds in the arid zone of this country, writes the

newspaper LESNAYA PROMYSHLENNOST. These are most valuable tracts of land which are used for pasture. Yet, they have their own drawbacks: acrid rainfall, salty soils, frequent sandstorms.

As a result of many years of research and experiments, Soviet specialists have developed a scientific system of afforestation measures to improve and restore grazing grounds and to use sands in the national economy. It has been proved that in the arid zone of the USSR, afforestation is the most effective and, at times, the only means to improve the pasture.

By slowing down the wind, the trees and bushes, planted in such places, facilitate snow accumulation, increase the moisture content in the soil and in the air, and remove the threat of soil erosion. The expenditures on planting them are returned in five to seven years, and the plants themselves serve for fifty to sixty years.

A space for a group of trees could be found anywhere in the arid zone. A forest like this will enable animals to rest in the daytime, its shadow can protect the cattle from overheating, and if the breeds of trees to be planted are carefully selected, they can also protect the animals from the pestering insects.

Sands provide favourable ground for joint actions by forest and water amelioration. They have a source of irrigation of their own in the abundant fresh subsoil water.

Rich experience has been gained in this respect in the lower reaches of the Dnieper River where watering of vineyards with underground sources has increased the yields by 45 per cent.

Thus, the lands protected by forest can be successfully used, the newspaper stresses. In different parts of the Soviet Union, forest plantations have been used to improve the quality and to recuperate about two million hectares of what used to be barren soil.

Places to visit

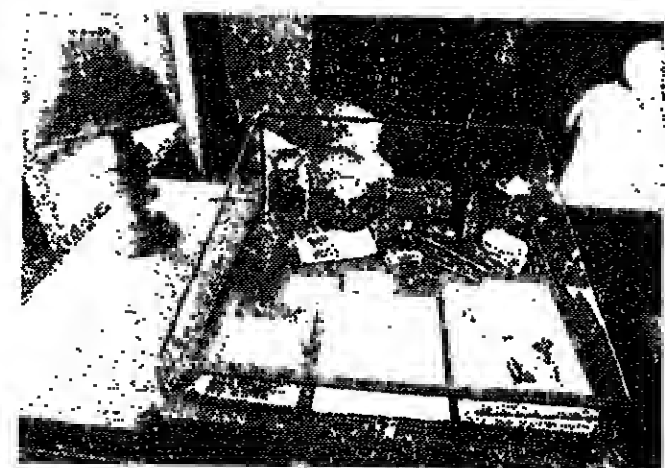
CHEKHOV'S MELIKHOVO



Chekhov's house at Melikhovo.

Anton Chekhov, a master of short stories, the author of innovative plays and classic of Russian literature, is cherished by all of us as a remarkable artist and thinker, humanist and democrat whose creative work is imbued with hatred for philistinism and vulgarity, for the ugliness of bourgeois propriety.

There are Chekhov memorial museums in Moscow, Taganrog, Yalta and Lukla Village to the Ukraine. One of them is in Melikhovo, Moscow Region. Chekhov considered this place, where he lived for six years, "unusually cosy and beautiful". He helped peasants as a doctor,



The writer's desk.

STREET BECOMES OPEN-AIR MUSEUM IN ODESSA

Pushkinskaya is so old street in Odessa which after being restored to its former glory has now become a sort of an open-air museum.

Virtually every house on the street has an historical background. In a two-storey house at No. 12, Pushkin, after whom the street is named, wrote the first few chapters of his poem "Eugene Onegin".

Before getting down to brass tacks, the restorers looked for relevant archival documents, photographs and memoirs. They subjected to thorough study. Private collectors contributed a lot of the lost details of facades, gates, balconies, window grilles and wood carvings by leading publications from their collections which show the street as it was to the past. The restorers requested certain institutes in Odessa to make several complicated items, for example, wrought-iron balustrade for the Krasnaya Hotel and the Philharmonic Society building.

The houses have been painted with their original colours. The facade of the USSR Merchant House, which had been turned green for many years, was restored to its original yellow colour. The three-story house built by the architect R. Polakov, designer of the famous Potemkin seafront stairs, has been painted with its many colours.

The reconstruction of the Pushkinskaya Street is a pre-condition for the restoration of the historical part of Odessa envisaged in a Master Plan expected to be completed by 1984.

USSR-Sweden: architectural profile

Some time ago the USSR played host to a group of Swedish architects and construction experts from the Royal High Technical School in Stockholm. They came to learn about reconstruction of old towns from their Soviet counterparts. The visit ended in a joint discussion of this subject with the view of forging further cooperation.

The delegation visited the Permanent Town Planning Exhibition in Moscow and the Hermitage in Leningrad. Sightseeing in the two towns was also much enjoyed.

Our fruitful and warm meetings with Soviet colleagues, representatives of various Soviet organizations and agencies, our being acquainted with attractions in these fine Soviet cities — all this will stay in our memory for a long time and make us look forward to coming here again, said Prof. Igor Dergalle, head of the Swedish group, before his departure to Stockholm.

Masterpieces of all times

At the Sovetskaya Eniklopediya publishing house in Moscow finishing touches are being put to bringing out the "Popular Art Encyclopaedia", which will contain about 4,000 articles — long and short stories, references and explanations. Nearly 2,000 black-and-white illustrations and almost 200 colour reproductions of world masterpieces will be included in this unique publication which will acquaint readers with the art of the countries and peoples of the world from ancient times to our days.

The encyclopaedia will present on a large-scale information

built schools and travelled to starving regions. He was district physician during a cholera epidemic and participated to the general population census of 1897.

This was a fruitful period in his literary activity. He wrote the most popular of his works, including the play, "The Sea Gull", in Melikhovo.

The collection at the Melikhovo Museum includes most interesting exhibits, the personal belongings of Anton Chekhov, the furniture of the period when he lived there has been recreated. Thousands of admirers of his talent come here to revive the memory of the great writer.

Science and technology

VISUALIZING THE INSIDE OF CRYSTALS

Electromagnetic waves are a good source of information about semiconductor materials. At the Institute of Semiconductor Physics of the Lithuanian SSR Academy of Sciences, scientists have found that when an electromagnetic beam passes through a crystal it becomes modified depending on the properties of obstruction. By analysing such changes specialists are able to obtain information about the intrinsic properties of a material.

These studies are a part of a new field in the semiconductor physics — helicon spectroscopy — which is being developed at the institute. Data on the behaviour of electromagnetic waves in semiconductor materials has formed the basis in which new devices for radio engineering and other fields have been designed.

LASTING STORAGE BATTERIES

The prerogative of metals — the ability to conduct electric current — is now being shared by plastic materials. One of their varieties — polyacetylene films — has made it possible to replace lead in car batteries, reducing their weight of at least ten times. Such batteries have been developed by experts of the Armenian branch of the Institute of Chemical Agents and Extra-Pure Chemical Substances jointly with scientists from the Institute of Chemical Physics of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

A substance conducts electricity if the electrons can easily break away from atoms, move and transfer energy. As it turned out, polyacetylene, too, may acquire such properties. When introducing delinix admixtures in small quantities its electric conductivity grows one million times, and on the basis of this effect new batteries have been developed.

Though of the same capacity, their weight and sizes are considerably less. Besides, such batteries can be recharged hundreds of times.

PIT REFUSE PUT TO GOOD USE

Scientists in the Ural recently suggested to use refuse heaps outside coal pits for the production of surfacing tiles. Two-thirds of their mass are refuse, and a factory in Perm has already started to produce such tiles.

The raw tiles need no baking because they are produced from refuse already baked to heaps. Similar factories working on coal refuse can be found in Donbass and the Ural producing a total of more than 70 million bricks a year. In Western Ural refuse is used in making roadbeds and mineral fertilizer. Various micro-substances found in refuse encourage its more effective utilization.

The future undoubtedly belongs to robot-attended complexes run by a single computer and communicating via a flexible transport system. Such complexes have already been taking shape at leading engineering factories in the country. At the Krasnoyarsk engineering factory, for example, is added to the 125 robots already in use, just as many will be added before the end of the year.

Introduction of robots proceeds with one very important requirement being taken into account: each production facility is to be ready to use robots. This means that it should have engineers, technicians, workers with the necessary skills to work with robots and to service them.

VIEWPOINT

Robot technology in the USSR

Leonid VOLCHKEVICH, O. Sc. (Technology), head of a chair at Moscow Bauman Higher Technical School

The USSR has developed a robot technology which enjoys a rather remarkable growth rate: in 1984 alone the country produced 13.7 thousand robots or more than the number developed between 1970 and 1980.

Machine-tool and instrument-making industries are the pace-setters in the field. It is only natural that instrument-making is in the lead — the industry is readily absorbing all the latest achievements. This result is that serial production of robots has started at a number of factories, among which the highest robot makers are in Rostov-on-Don (Rostovskaya), in Nizhny Novgorod (Nizhny Novgorodskaya), in Moscow (Moskovskaya) and in Khabarovsk (Khabarovskaya). These produce two thousand robots a year each.

Robots have found many uses in instrument-making to replace manual labour, especially in the performance of routine assembly operations. At watch-making factories, for example, robots have replaced thousands of workers. The robots are also promising in making various devices such as refrigerators and other consumer products. It should be noted that robots offer higher performance than men. Robot productivity in watch-making is twice higher than that of humans while they assemble three times more thermocouples for refrigerators than people can, given the same length of time.

Robots save people from working in harmful environments (welding, painting, metal fitting, etc.) which is very important for human health. In addition robots can be used non-stop for 24 hours, thus, reducing outage of equipment to the minimum.

Comprehensive automation does not mean redundancy. None of the workers made redundant through the use of robots remain without job. They are either trained, at state expense, to become operators of automatic production lines, or go to other productions where their skills and experience are needed. Moreover, none of them earn less pay than before the introduction of robots.

The future undoubtedly belongs to robot-attended complexes run by a single computer and communicating via a flexible transport system. Such complexes have already been taking shape at leading engineering factories in the country. At the Krasnoyarsk engineering factory, for example, is added to the 125 robots already in use, just as many will be added before the end of the year.

Introduction of robots proceeds with one very important requirement being taken into account: each production facility is to be ready to use robots. This means that it should have engineers, technicians, workers with the necessary skills to work with robots and to service them. The Moscow Bauman Higher Technical School is the first in this country training engineers for robot-attended systems. The fundamentals of robot technology are now lectured at 12 higher schools in Moscow. A research and training centre for robotics has been set up in Moscow under the aegis of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the USSR Ministry for Higher and Specialized Secondary Education. It retains engineers with technical background and offers consultations to factories heavily involved in the introduction of robots and manipulators.

● A. Kull with some of the new dwellers at Moscow Zoo.

ENTERTAINMENT

Theatre, Cinema and TV Stars

ALLA PUGACHOVA



"A woman who sings", someone said some time ago. This was also said of the film in which she starred. This description is not quite complete because Alla Pugachova not only sings but also writes music and texts for many of her songs. Besides, she is an artistic director at variety performances and a film actress. Recently she was awarded the title of People's Artist of the RSFSR.

Her debut took place in 1981 when she sang "Robot" over the radio. Then followed difficult years when she was trying to find her own style on the variety stage. Ten years later she sang "Vitezhstvo", which made her quite popular.

Last year she presented a new programme: "I Come to Asen". Everything in it was unusual. A large platform of the Olimpiyskiy Sports Complex with sophisticated equipment that produced sudden sound and lighting effects, was substituted for a conventional stage. There was an orchestra, circus and ballet, but everything obeyed her voice.

Q: From programme to programme such a phenomenon as "the theatre of Alla Pugachova" develops. It is a theatre, not simple singing.

What do you think about its future as artistic director?

A: The theatre already exists. What we have to do is to find some premises. Its walls are already visible. Most probably it will be the Mirra Theatre in the Hermitage Gardens. Much will have to be rearranged. Only after that we can set up a theatre of variety songs with a resident company which will incorporate singing, sports, a specially trained dance group, and, of course, artistic directors. They will stage song shows, in which well-known stars and young budding singers will take part.

Q: You are always so sincere in your songs and this makes me believe that each song is like a confession, that you are actually engaged by it. Is it possible to say that the songs recorded by Alla Pugachova are her musical portraits? Or is there a boundary that separates Pugachova the singer from her lyrical counterpart?

A: Of course, there is such a boundary. But I put in part of my personal life experience into each song, something I have lived through or felt, some facets of my spiritual development. Remember how my heroes have been changing. At first they were eccentric, ironic, funny, or dramatic. Then came lyrical and romantic ones. Some songs are fully autobiographical. For instance, when my daughter went to school for the first time I sang a funny song, "First-Former". My songs about love, the pain of losses, separation and meetings, are closer to the heart of every woman, I think. Singers, by the way, are also women. Outside the stage they can feel helpless, unhappy, anxious, and worried by real life which can be far from lyrical. A film in which Pugachova is playing herself is being shot at Mosfilm Studios. It is based on one of my concepts, one day in my life and work.

I am fully convinced that a singer must always amaze her audience. What I shall be like in my new programme I do not know yet. I know, however, that I cannot stand still, marking time. New topics and new events crop up in real life, and I cannot be unconcerned. Each time I succeed in being different, yet recognizable I shall have a full audience.

Q: What are your plans for the near future?

A: In Stockholm the film Trek Music is finishing a final disc. I sing my songs and others written by Swedish composers specially for me in English.

By the way, this film has come out with a disc which was awarded the Gold Prize in Finland.

Olga SVISTUNOVA

A theatre without actors

The Druzhba Theatre in Yerevan opened its new season with guest performances by actors of the Leningrad Bolshoi Drama Theatre. Gaoqi Tovlanogov and his actors staged Ostrovsky's "Wolves and Sheep" and Sukhovo-Kobylitskiy's "The Death of Tarelkin".

Druzhba has already gained tremendous popularity in the city. People wait for new plays with extraordinary impatience. This theatre is not an ordinary one. It has no actors or artistic directors. Its mission consists in inviting companies from all over the Soviet Union.

This year we shall include in the orbit of our performances companies that represent different genres of theatrical art. We are anticipating the visit of the Moscow Chamber Musical Theatre and the Leningrad Modern Ballet, says People's Artist of the USSR R. Kaplanov. Having given our theatre such a beautiful name as Druzhba (meaning Friendship), we knew that its destination goes much further than merely the communication of actors with the audience. It involves the joy of knowing our republic better. We are glad that similar theatres have been opened in Tbilisi and Baku and will be opened in Minsk and the republics of the Baltic republics.

FACTS and EVENTS

Awards. A soloist of the opera studio at the Yerevan Conservatoire Araks Davtyan, has been awarded the first prize at the Vioti International contest of vocalists in Italy, which took place at the famous Arena di Verona concert hall. Other young vocalists of the republic have been winning artistic reviews of late. Susanna Marfisyanyan, for instance, was one of the winners at opera singers' contest in Toulouse.

Soviet writer Vladimir Surikov has received the first prize in Bulgaria at the Aleco International competition for the best work in the genre of satire and humour.



This picture was taken at a concert given in Moscow by the Philippine Ensemble. Organized in the 70s, it has become a major group thanks to the interest of the Philippine peoples in their history. Their repertoire revives songs and dances of many peoples in the remote provinces of the country. The concert of the ensemble is impregnated with the display of national costumes and rites. The ensemble toured the USSR in 1982 and 1983. This year they have already been to Minsk and after visiting Moscow they will proceed to Riga, Tallinn and Leningrad.

Photo by Boris Kisev

Cooperation gaining scope

Cuba and the Soviet Union may soon shoot a film about Capablanca, one of the most brilliant chess players of the 20th century who visited the Soviet Union in the 30s.

This year cooperation between film makers of both countries will concentrate on the 40th anniversary of the Great Victory over our invaders, the 25th anniversary of the restoration of diplomatic relations between the USSR and Cuba, and other important events in the life of both countries. There will be film weeks and special film demonstrations. Cooperation will continue in the sphere of joint film making. Soviet film makers will attend the 7th International Latin American Film Festival in Havana. For their part, Cuban colleagues have been invited to the 14th International Film Festival which will take place in Moscow this summer.

SCREEN VERSION OF HUGO'S NOVEL

For the first time, a film based on Victor Hugo's novel "Les Travailleurs de la Mer", will be made. It will consist of three parts, and will be shot by a joint team: Pathé Cinéma (France) and Georgia Film Studios. Commissioned by the USSR Central Television, work on the film began shortly before the hundredth anniversary of the death of the great French writer, and a considerable part of it will be completed this year.

We are now at the preparatory stages, says G. Gabashvili, one of the artistic directors. The shooting sites are being chosen, so are costumes, sets and actors. Filming starts in Batumi and will continue on the shores of the Pas-de-Calais.

"Portraits of Georgia". This is perhaps a good title for these photographs taken by Bodo Dadvizze, a well-known photographer in Tbilisi. An exhibition of his works has been mounted at the Friendship House in Moscow. More than one hundred photographs taken over a number of years are on view.



WHAT'S ON!

February 2-4

THEATRES

Bolshoi Theatre (Sverdlov Sq. 2) (mat) — Double-bill: Strauss, "The Knight of the Sad Countenance" (ballet), Schinika, "Sketches" (ballet); 2 (eve) — Wagner, "Das Rheingold" (opera); 3 (mat) — Rimsky-Korsakov, "The Snow Maiden" (opera); 3 (eve) — Prokofiev, "Romeo and Juliet" (ballet).

Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre (Pushkinskaya St. 2) — Leoncavallo, "Il Pagliacci" (opera); 3 (mat) — Morozov, "Doctor Doolittle" (ballet); 3 (eve) — Rossini, "The Barber of Seville" (opera); 4 — Adam, Delibes, "Coppélia" (ballet).

Operetta Theatre (6 Pushkinskaya St.) — Gadzhiev, "The Crossroads"; 3 — Paltamov, "An Old Comedy"; 4 — Milyutin, "Girls in a Hurry".

FILMS

The Parting (Mosfilm Studios, USSR).

About truck drivers, people of complicated and difficult profession.

BUSINESS



Over 100 thousand tonnes of freight are sent to India via Odessa. The port there has a special complex for handling Indian ships equipped with all the latest technology.

Picture: B. Mohladra (left), captain of the Indian ship, and the deputy head of the Odessa division of Intlot, S. Merlyanov who coordinates the Soviet-Indian two-way shipping line.

Finnish project for frozen potato foods

A project is under construction in Moscow's Otkrytoye Highway. On holidays two flags — Soviet and Finnish — go up the stairs in front of it, symbolizing the presence of Finnish builders here.

The project they are working on is called small Koloss production association industrial complex for making frozen potato foods. But the complex is rather big. It covers 10,500 square metres. The administrative quarters have five storeys while the production ones have three each. It will produce five tonnes of potato products an hour. In addition to the production section, the complex will have a storage facility for 2,000 tonnes, a cold store for 3,000 tonnes and a warehouse for packaging materials.

The project is being undertaken by the Paitek joint-stock company, the products of which are known in the USSR.

Paitek is mainly a manufacturing concern, and project's Finnish co-director Sakari Sipila, but we also do construction work. The fact that such an important project in Moscow has been entrusted to us confirms our success in this sphere of activity.

TRADE WITH POLAND GROWS

The Soviet Union tops the list of Poland's export-import transactions while the latter holds fourth place among USSR trade partners.

A further development of specialization and cooperation, above all in machine building, is envisaged in 1983, and will entail a growth in mutual deliveries of machines and equipment.

As before, supplies from the Soviet Union will meet a considerable part of Poland's import requirements in basic fuels and raw materials. Poland will supply the USSR with mineral coal, sulphur, varnishes, dyes and other chemicals.

The protocol provides for an expansion of cooperation in the production and supply of machines and goods for agricultural and allied industries. It is also envisaged to increase mutual supplies of consumer goods.

SOVIET MACHINE TOOLS IN ITALY

There is a growing interest among Italian business circles in products of the Soviet machine-tool building industry. Equipment manufactured in factories in Moscow, Leningrad, Ivanovo, Ryazan, Krasnodar and other towns and cities are imported by Innocenti, Novias and other Italian firms. Over the past ten years alone over five thousand Soviet machine tools have been purchased by these firms. An international exhibition of machine tools and equipment held in Milan at the end of last year pointed the possibilities of further increase to export deliveries to Italy. At the exhibition the All-Union Association Stankompoim presented various types of machine tools made in the Soviet Union, including those which are numerically controlled and machine tool centres. Using this occasion the Soviet Association signed a number of new contracts with Italian partners.

'Hungary — land of tourism, land of friends'

Last year the Hungarian People's Republic hosted 13.3 million foreign tourists and about 74 per cent of them arrived from the socialist countries. Andras Rozsa, director of the Moscow office of the Hungarian IBSZ travel bureau, said at a press conference to mark the opening of an exhibition "Hungary — land of tourism, land of friends" at the "Bendaps" cinema in Moscow.

Contacts between our two countries in the sphere of foreign travel pursue not only commercial aims. We acquaint Soviet people not only with the country's sights but also with the life, work and successes in the building of socialist society.

Intourist news

In our city and the whole of the country. We are daily dispatching and also receiving friendship trains and planes. For their participants we organize friendship rallies and get-togethers of which tourists can establish personal contacts. Taking into account professional interests of Soviet tourists, apart from recreation itineraries round Hungary we also arrange trips according to interests, exchange of delegations from related cities and regions.

Tourist itineraries of Hungary pass through 50 cities. A new jubilee itinerary will be added this year, it starts in Battonya where 40 years ago Soviet troops crossed the border of Hungary starting the liberation of the country.

Maria AMAROVA

Philately

Peoples' Friendship University is 25

The USSR Ministry of Communications has issued two picture covers and a postage stamp marking the 25th anniversary of Peoples' Friendship University. Price: 1 kopek.



CONCERT HALLS

by Torpedo. 1 p.m. Moscow Spartak vs Riga Dynamo. 5 p.m.

FOOTBALL

Olimpiyskiy Sports Complex (Metro Prospekt Mira). 2 and 3 — Alexander Starostin memorial competitions. On 2 — at 10 a.m.; on 3 — at 2 p.m.

RACING

Hippodrome (22 Bagovaya St.). 3 — Racing and trotting. 1 p.m.

WEATHER

February 2-4

CHESS

Hall of Columns. House at Tieda Uleska. 4 — World title match. Anatoly Karpov (USSR) vs Gari Kasparov (USSR). The 4th game. 5 p.m.

ICE HOCKEY

Palace of Sport (Luzhniki). 2 — Central Army Club vs Gorky.

TRANSPORT HOURS

Moskva 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Fare 5 kopeks.

Trolleybuses 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Fare 4 kopeks.

Buses 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Fare 1 kopek.

Trams 5.30 a.m. to 1.30 a.m. Fare 3 kopeks.

Tram 24-hour service. Twenty kopeks on the meter to begin plus 20 kopeks per kilometre.

Ordering a cab 24-hour service. Telephone 225-00-00.

Communal cabs (over 40 routes in the city) 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fare 15 kopeks.